REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1944 No. 40

THIS GREAT NEW FRONT

Mr. CHURCHILL

I have to announce to the House that during the night and early hours of this morning the first of a series of landings in force upon the European continent has taken place. In this case the liberating assault fell upon the coast of France. ¶ So far the commanders who are engaged report that everything is proceeding according to plan—and what a plan! This vast plan is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred It involves tides, wind, waves and visibility both from air and sea standpoints, and combined employment of land air and sea forces in the highest degree of intimacy, and in contact with conditions which could not and cannot be fully known. ¶ There are already hopes that actual tactical surprise has been attained and we hope to furnish the enemy with a succession of surprises during the course of the fighting. The battle which has now begun will grow constantly in scale and intensity for many weeks to come and we shall not attempt to speculate on its course, but this I may say—that complete unity prevails ¶ The ardour and spirit of the troops as I saw for myself when they were embarking in these last few days was splendid to witness. Nothing that equipment, science or forethought can do has been neglected, and the whole process of opening this great new front will be pursued with utmost resolution, both by the Commanders and by the United States and British Governments whom they serve

Mr. CHURCHILL, in a special statement to the House of Commons, on June 6

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

MEMORABLE AND GLORIOUS EVENT

"The House should take formal cognizance of the liberation of Rome by Allied armies. This is a memorable and glorious event which rewards the intense fighting of the last five months in Italy."

MR. CHURCHILL, *making a statement, in the Commons, on Tuesday, June 6.*

❖

ULTIMATE VICTORY STILL LIES AHEAD

"It would be unwise to inflate in our minds, the military importance of Rome. Germany has suffered heavy losses but not great enough yet to cause her collapse. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we can get into Germany itself.

Ultimate victory still lies some distance ahead. But that distance will be covered in due time, have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly. Germany has not yet been driven to a point where she will be unable to re-commence world conquest a generation hence. The United Nations are determined that in future no one city, and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, *in a broadcast, on Monday, June 5.*

❖

STRIKE FOR FREEDOM

"Good hunting on the mainland of Europe. To us is given the honour to strike the blow for freedom which will live in history. I want every soldier to have complete confidence in the successful outcome of the operations."

GENERAL MONTGOMERY, *in a message to his troops, on Tuesday, June 6.*

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THE FINAL ROUND—FIRST PUNCH

ON September 4, 1940, Hitler said, " When people in Britain ask: ' Yes, why don't you come? ', we reply: ' Calm yourselves, we shall come '." The Germans did not come. They could not come. They miscalculated. They wanted to eliminate Russia before turning their attention to Britain. Instead of eliminating Russia, they got entangled in Russia. This gave the Allies time—time to build new planes, new ships and new equipment, time to train thousands and thousands of young men and women in the tasks of war, time to prepare for a Second Front.

THE Allies had a twofold task—to help the Russian Front by regular supply of valuable equipment, and at the same time to prepare for that Other Front, for which the hard-pressed Russians were clamouring. This was by no means easy. It was a race against time to be run on an obstacle course, and the Allies have done it exceedingly well indeed.

THERE were, of course, people who were impatient. They said slow and steady might win the race, but by the time it got into stride there would be no race to be won. But others there were—and they were larger in number—who believed that an early start was not always the best guarantee of victory. They knew that time and the forces of time were with the Allies, that it was not catching time by the forelock that was important so much as acquiring it lock, stock and barrel. And that is what the Allies have now succeeded in doing.

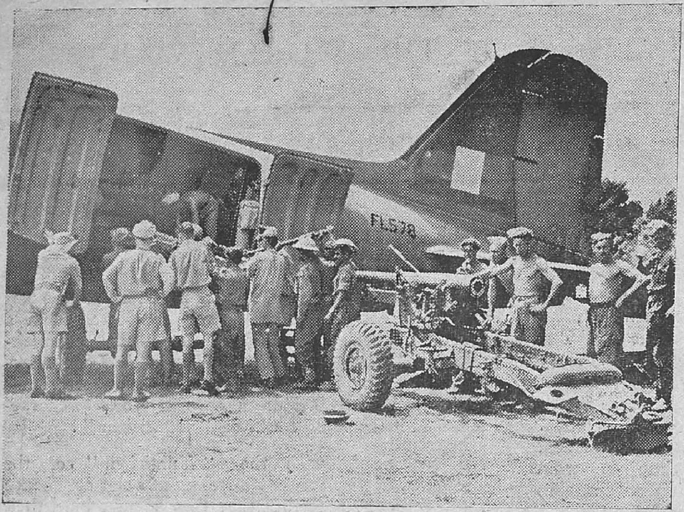
MEANWHILE, Dr. Goebbels and Lord Haw-Haw were, with persistent pertinacity, calling for the Second Front. " Why don't you come? " they asked, " Russia is clamouring for an invasion from the West. Why don't you go to her rescue? " The main objective of Axis propaganda was not only to create disunion between the Allies, but also to ridicule the idea of the Second Front itself. On October 17, 1942, the Berlin Radio declared to the German people: " Germany and her Allies are prepared to such an extent as to rule out the Second Front." About a month later (November 10, 1942), Dr. Goebbels assured them that " every expert knows that the European Continent is barred to any attempted invasion by the English."

BUT in recent weeks there was a noticeable change in the tone and tenor of German propaganda. The old doctrine of Hitler's invincible ***Festung Europa*** was practically given up. In its place, a new weapon was forged, a weapon which was considered to be a sufficient answer to Allied might—Berlin commentators called it " the true Nazi spirit," Lord Haw-Haw described it as " that calm and imperturbable assurance," but Dr. Goebbels would prefer to characterise it in his *Das Reich* as " fanaticism "!

AS contrasted with the " fanaticism " of the Germans, the British had a feeling of quiet confidence right through, a feeling that they should bide their time, a feeling that, come what may, all that they had to do was to hold on till the freedom-loving world rallied and gathered its strength. Four years ago, after the evacuation of Dunkirk, Mr. Churchill declared (June 4, 1940), that " Britain and the Commonwealth would carry on the struggle until, in God's good time, a new world with all its power and might steps forth to the liberation and rescue of the old."

AND now it has happened! The new world has come to liberate the old from Fascist tyranny; America has joined hands with Britain, and an all-out attempt to rid Europe of Hitlerism has been launched. This great invasion of Europe has begun soon after the liberation of Rome, the first Axis capital to fall into Allied hands. The timing of the invasion, the landings of troops on the French Coast on a scale hitherto never seen before, the fact that this took place with extremely little loss and great accuracy, the perfect co-ordination of the naval, land and air services in the landing operations and subsequent fighting, and the initial successes that have attended the great effort of the Allies—all these show, that a good beginning—a very good beginning—has been made.

IT is the final round in the great battle for freedom and democracy, and the first punch itself has, according to a Berlin report of the German-controlled Scandinavian Telegram Bureau, " knocked out the tactical teeth of the Atlantic Wall." The Gustav Line and the Hitler Line in Italy have crumbled; now it is the turn of " Walls." This does not, however, mean that everything will be " smooth sailing," to use a naval expression. Allied troops will meet with stiff and desperate resistance, but there is no doubt that, in due course, their air superiority, numerical strength, and advantage in equipment will carry them onward from success to success on the mainland of Europe.



FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION MOVES BY AIR.—R.A.F. and American crews of Troop Carrier Command under Brigadier General Old recently moved by air the Fifth Indian Division from the Arakan to the Imphal Front. Indian and British troops, jeeps, guns, mules, food and ammunition were transported hundreds of miles in a couple of hours and shortly after the troops were in contact with the enemy on the new front.

Photo shows : *heavy guns being loaded into one of the transports.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Burma Situation—Result Satisfactory Speaking to pressmen on the latest position on the Burma front, a military spokesman at New Delhi said on Monday, "On the whole, for the first time, we seem to have met the Japs on equal terms in Burma, and we appear to have got their measure. They have given us no challenge in the Bay of Bengal or the Indian Ocean; we are dominant in the air; they show no signs of winning the battle on land. In fact, it is the other way round. There is no reason to be complacent, but the results are satisfactory." The Japanese have been putting up a stiff fight on the Burma front south and south-east of Imphal with a view to capturing the Imphal plain before the monsoon set in. This was particularly evident in the Tamu-Palel and the Bishenpur areas. Their desperate efforts to get the coveted Imphal plain have failed. Their attacks have been driven off. This does not mean that the Japanese cannot, if they so decide, still further increase their pressure, for the Tamu road is an all-weather road and transportation of supplies is comparatively easy. The Tiddim road is less serviceable to them, because Indian troops have placed a road-block south of Bishenpur. The Japanese are making attempts to remove the road-block without any success so far.

Indian ack-ack gunners on the Imphal Plain about to engage an enemy aircraft. Among them is Havildar Shanmugavel, Madras, who directed the crew when they recently bagged two Jap planes.

In the Manipur road area, the Japanese have been fighting desperately but without hopes of supplies or reinforcements. Allies in this area are being supplied from the air, which monsoon weather will make it difficult. But it may be pointed out that weather conditions may diminish but cannot prevent our air-borne supply. Thus the balance of advantage in the difficult weather conditions lies with us.

* * *

North Burma—Tactical Situation Bad for Japs In the North Burma front, although our troops advancing from the southern air fields on Myitkyina and from the north were able to take one-third of the Myitkyina town including the railway station, the speed of our advance was retarded by the obstinate defence tactics of the Japanese who were aided by heavy rain and deep mud. The Japanese lines of withdrawal have been cut by the capture of a number of villages by our troops south and north-west of Myitkyina. In the Mogaung valley, steady progress is being made by the Chinese forces and in the south General Lentaigne's forces, which are now under General STILWELL's Command, are attacking from the rear. In the Yunnan area, Chinese troops which are advancing from the Salween river to the Burma frontier have made it difficult for the Japanese to assist the Japanese 18th Division, which is holding Myitkyina

and Mogaung, by transfer of troops from their area.

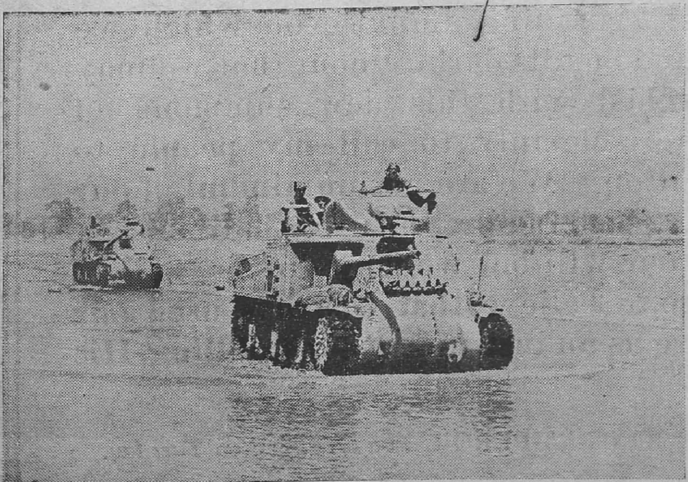
Thus it is clear that the tactical situation for the Japanese in North Burma is pretty bad. But this should not be taken to mean that the whole of Myitkyina or Mogaung is likely to be captured by our troops early, for the Japanese are known to be excellent last-ditch fighters and their defensive strategy may be helped by the rainy weather. Further they still have the advantage of round-about tracks of supply to their troops.

* * *

Japanese Radio Propaganda —Talk About Difficulties But it is significant that Japanese radio stations have not been mentioning anything about the operations in the Myitkyina area. They have been showing considerable reserve in referring to the operations here and elsewhere. They have been emphasizing the difficulties facing their troops in broadcasts intended for home listeners. For instance, a Japanese officer in the course of a talk giving personal impressions of the Imphal front said, "The difficulty of our forces in operating on this front lies in lack of supplies and lack of air supremacy (clear admissions of facts). Our efficiency of supply moreover is considerably inferior to that of enemy. While the enemy receive food by air, our men continued battles eating a handful supply of barley or gram . . . During eight days' stay, I once saw a plane which looked like our own. The happiness of our men was indeed immense."

Another significant fact is that Tokyo and its satellite stations have now more or less completely abandoned the claim to a successful invasion of India. From bold claims and promises of quick and easy victory, they have now come to candid admissions of difficulties. This change on the propaganda front is due to the fact that the Japanese have realized for themselves that in equipment, training, toughness and endurance our troops are more than a match for them.

From the Arkan to the Imphal front: A heavily loaded jeep goes aboard the transport plane.



IMPHAL SCENES.—Tanks travel upstream on the Imphal Front to avoid the dust.

RAJAPUTS FIRED 8,000 MORTAR BOMBS

Over 8,000 bombs were fired by the mortars of a battalion of the 7th Rajaput Regiment during their two major encounters with the enemy first in the Arakan and then in the Kohima area, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The mortar platoon commander, Capt. R. J. Solomon of Lily Court, Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay, told me that during the relief of Kohima town alone 3,080 bombs were discharged, including 400 when the enemy attacked "Two Three Hill." Another 1,000 when the Japs attacked one of the Rajaput companies near Jhotsome village.

In the Arakan, the mortars were used mainly in the Ngakyedauk and the Razabil fortress areas, 1,000 having been discharged on the "Tortoise" feature alone.

ADDRESS SLIPS FOR INDIAN SOLDIER'S RELATIVES

Indian soldiers are to be supplied with printed slips containing their addresses. To ensure correct delivery of letters these slips will be sent to relatives who are expected to stick them to envelopes.

This move has been decided on by the Army Postal Service in India to overcome the difficulty caused by insufficient and inaccurate addressing of correspondence intended for troops and to ensure prompt delivery of letters.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

A CALL TO PRAYER & DEDICATION

"Once more the supreme test has to be faced. This time the challenge is not to fight to survive but to fight to win final victory for a good cause. Once again what is demanded from us all is something more than courage and endurance; we need a revival of the spirit, a new unconquerable resolve.

After nearly five years of toil and suffering we must renew that crusading impulse on which we entered the war and met its darkest hour that we may be worthily matched with this new summons of destiny. I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer and dedication. We are not unmindful of our own short-coming, past and present; we shall not ask that God may do our will but we may do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our nation and Empire as an instrument for fulfilling His high purpose."

—HIS MAJESTY THE KING-EMPEROR, *in a broadcast on Tuesday.*

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON YOU"

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN OF THE ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE!

GENERAL D. EISENHOWER.

You are about to embark upon a great crusade towards which we have striven these many months.

The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you.

In company with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well-trained, well-equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats in open battle, man to man.

Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men.

The tide has turned. Free men of the world are marching together to victory. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.

We will accept nothing less than full victory. Good luck. And let us all beseech the blessing of the Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

—GENERAL EISENHOWER, *Allied Supreme Commander, to his troops, on June 6.*

A TERRIFIC ALLIED TEAM

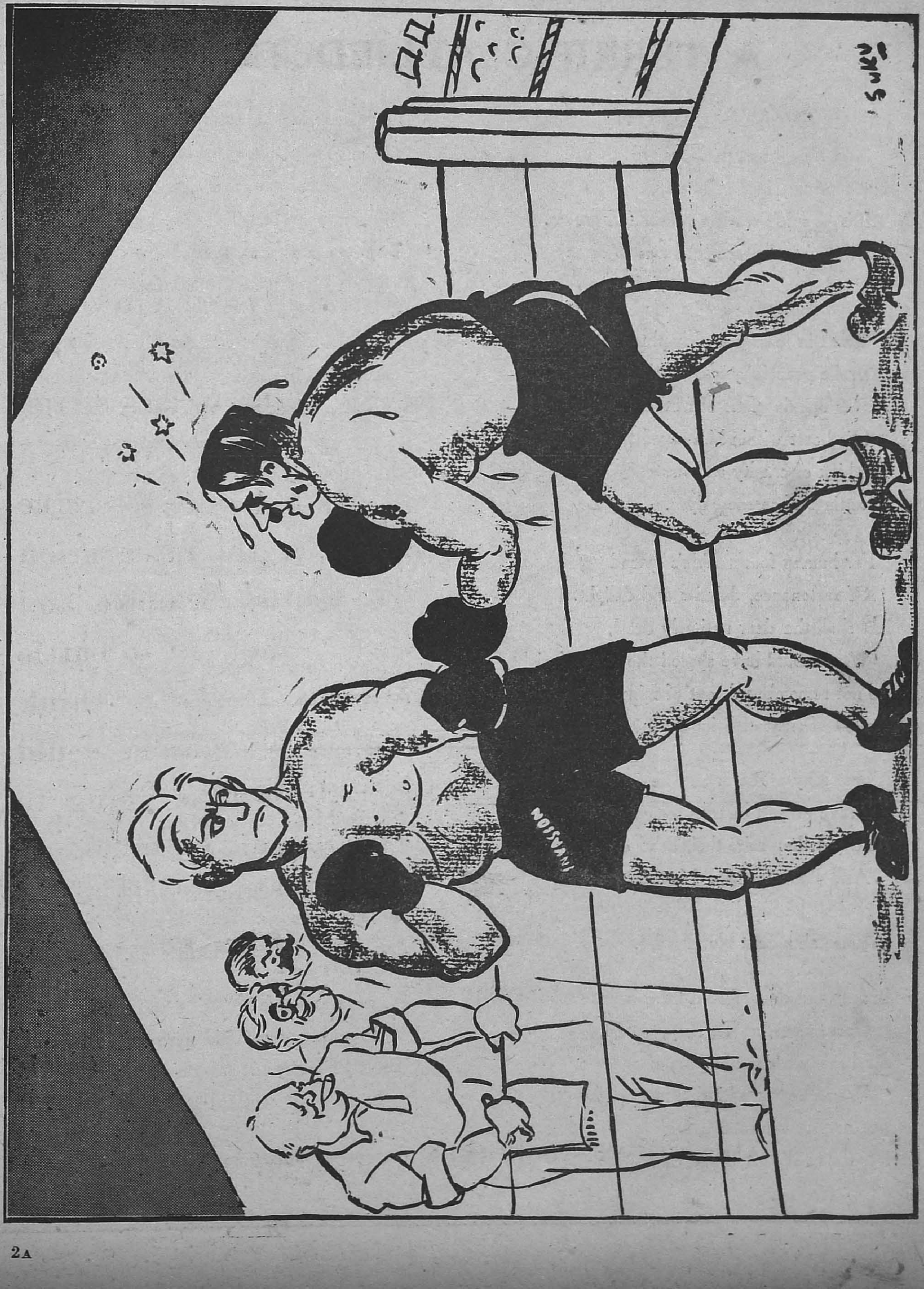
☆

GENERAL MONTGOMERY.

"I personally have absolute and complete confidence in the outcome. Our party is in first-class shape to win the match. We are a great Allied team—a terrific Allied team, the integration of the British Empire and America going out to battle together. I don't think any other two nations could have done it. I don't know when the war is going to end, but I don't believe the Germans can go on much longer with this business. The German soldier is terribly good, but I don't think the German General is as good as he used to be. He has been on the defensive a very long time, and I believe it must affect his mentality."

—GENERAL MONTGOMERY, *in an eve-of-battle statement.*

THE LAST ROUND



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW

MEDITATIONS FAR

He sat beside the quiet sea
And thought of perils not his own,
The roaring wings of liberty,
His people's warlike power full-grown.
He thought of peace that was to come
By bugles called and beat of drum.

The surf in tossing ostrich-plumes
Broke peacefully and on the shore
Threw opening fans of frothing spumes.
His heart within him raged the more
To think of cruelty and lies
In settings of serenest dyes.

" For human folk a table's spread
Of sustenance, dainti s and delight.
But shall the dear untimely dead,
Who should have shared the feast of right,
Be not remembered, out of mind
As out of sight of living kind ?

Monstrosity and war and lie
Have preyed on man for centuries,
And still they raise their head on high
And claim the world is theirs, not his.
Nor shall he his disease forget
Because abundant blood is let.

In fear and danger men have been
Courageous, noble, fiery, proud,
And many a lass has proved a queen
Who else were hidden in the crowd :
But nations grow no better by
Preparing all to kill and die.

If in his interims of peace
Man has not learnt to live aright,
Will he from wrath and folly cease
When in his hands the tools of might
Have won a greater, fiercer war
Than ever shook the earth before ?

The fool and knave, like tares that grow
And steal the riches of the wheat,
With little minds that nothing know
Save with bewildering words to cheat,
Still thrive, still work their wanton will,
And common men bedevil still.

If war-lords fall and not again
The flag of conquest lures the folk,
Beware lest other figments vain
Bow man and woman to a yoke
As savage and as merciless
As iron-handed war's distress.

In war our people learnt to strive
United for a common end,
To save their rights and souls alive :
So enemy did more than friend
To foster love and brotherhood
And out of evil came forth good.

As nave and transept, aisle and apse
Beneath one splendid spire and tower
Together buttressed from collapse
In unity proclaim the power
Of vision, and call Englishmen
To worship over field and fen.

FROM ANY FRONT—(*By* R.G.)

So English freedom shone afar
While the whole people toiled and fought.
And stresses of a nation's war
An edifice majestic wrought :
Old liberties redeemed with blood
Withstood new tyranny at flood.

But as a climber will display
In danger on a treacherous crag
A coolness not of every day
And daring like a flying flag
But, having scaled the peak and come
To level ground, grow dull at home,

So danger past and peace regained
The heroic pulse may cease to beat
And weary victors be enchained
More pitiably than by defeat.
A proper rage must fire their mind
Lest they be bound like Samson blind.

Folly, monstrosity and lie
Detest, my people, and despise :
However gaudy is the dye,
Let promise never dazzle eyes ;
And never for mess of pottage be
Bartered your strength and liberty.

Do not suppose the barrack square
Will be enchanted to a lawn ;
Nor, hearing voices in the air,
Think cruelty is freedom's dawn.
For that way madness lies ; and you
Have fought for better things you knew.

Surrender not to plot nor plan
Your native wit and happy heart.
Call not to lead your caravan
False guides who gloss a falser chart.
Do not yourselves in bricks immure
Nor build a jail your ills to cure.

See, England's lovely landscape smiles
In April showers, September suns,
And thickest hedges guard the miles
Of peace between the angry guns.
Tall elms and beeches rustling say
' Our beauty grew not in a day.

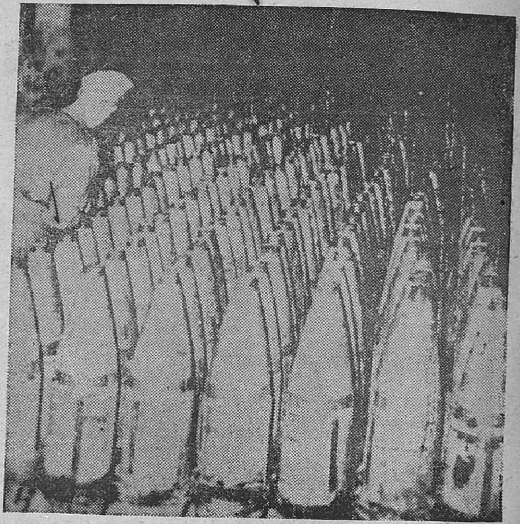
But as we grow, so slow, so sure,
The liberties of England grew
And sucked a sap serene and pure
From soils enriched with bloody dew.
In field and pasture, park and glade,
Master and man alike they shade.

Though concrete runways scar the land,
Though miseries tell of errors great,
So long as English freedoms stand
Invincible, inviolate,
So long the world shall draw from you
Example old and purpose new.' "

Beside the quiet sea his thought
Came round full circle from his rage
And with the ceaseless surges wrought
His mood of passion to assuage.
Though evil be beneath the sun,
On feet as strong man's guardians run.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GRAND ASSAULT

Picture shows *the King inspecting machine-gunners, with their Yukon Pack strapped on to their backs enabling them to march with their arms free.*



Shells by the million ready for the Allied armies, stacked deep underground somewhere in England.

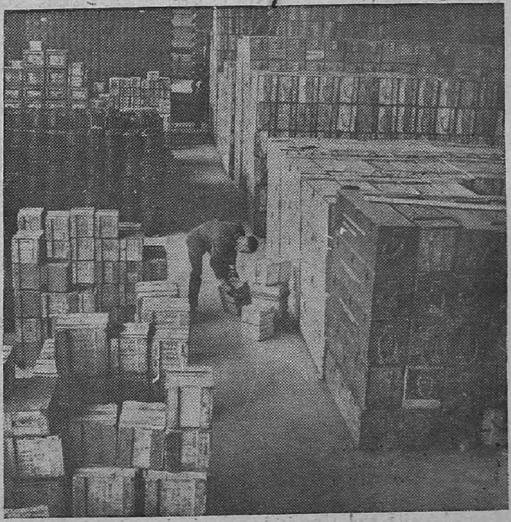
Training M.T. drivers on invasion barges. The training takes place both during the day and night and includes the driving of vehicles through water. Picture shows *practice driving in deep waters.*

THE TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Picture made at an equipment depot somewhere in England shows: *Hundreds of motor cycles stored in large outbuildings of a disused brick-works. An officer and an N.C.O. are seen checking them in one of the buildings.*

Picture shows *long lines of 40 m.m. Befors Light A.A. guns on Mark II mountings.*

Picture shows 15 *cwt. Bedford trucks parked in a wood.*



Picture shows *stacks of packing cases filled with rifles, Bren guns 20 m.m. gun Piat mortars, etc., at a Bulk Store House.*

MEDICAL ARMY FOR SECOND FRONT

WHILE massed Allied armies await the opening of the Second Front, medical authorities of England and America have completed the most ambitious plan for dealing with casualties ever evolved in the history of warfare.

The combined forces of medical science and equipment are mobilized. Doctors, nurses and hospital staffs are standing by to deal with any emergency. England is fully equipped and ready to become the greatest medical reception base in the world.

For the past nine months requisition officers have been touring the country commandeering castles, country mansions and large houses for conversion into naval, military and air force hospitals.

Civilian and service tradesmen were mobilized for the reconstruction work, which was carried out in record time.

With a few exceptions, the commandeered buildings have not had exterior alterations made. But few of the former owners and tenants would recognize the interiors.

UP-TO-DATE WARDS

Dining rooms, bedrooms, and halls have been converted into the most up-to-date wards. Reception rooms are now the latest thing in operating theatres.

Greenhouses and conservatories which last year housed tomatoes and grapes now house the latest sun-ray and violet-ray apparatus. Outhouses have become well-equipped gymnasiums, with the latest devices for muscular restoration.

Basements and cellars are now X-ray rooms fitted with the most elaborate and expensive plants known to science. Coal cellars have made ideal dark-rooms for developing X-ray plates.

Kitchens have been enlarged and equipped with the latest electric stoves and grills with ample refrigerators.

Transport of the wounded from the front line to home hospitals has received special consideration. A fleet of air-ambulances will operate from front-line stations.

No more will the grievously wounded feel the jolt of the train, the roll of the ocean, or the jostling of the dockside.

Special arrangements have also been made for immediate pre-dressing of wounds in the line of action. Gone is the old emergency dressing with its small bottle of iodine.

Instead, a small compete of medical requirements will be carried by trained men in each platoon to deal with wounds until skilled medical attention is available.

LARGE STAFFS

The training of personnel has also been completed. For the past six months numbers of Wrens, Waafs and A.T.S. have been trained in hospital work.

Large numbers of doctors and nurses from America and Canada have arrived and in most cases have already been posted to the emergency hospitals.

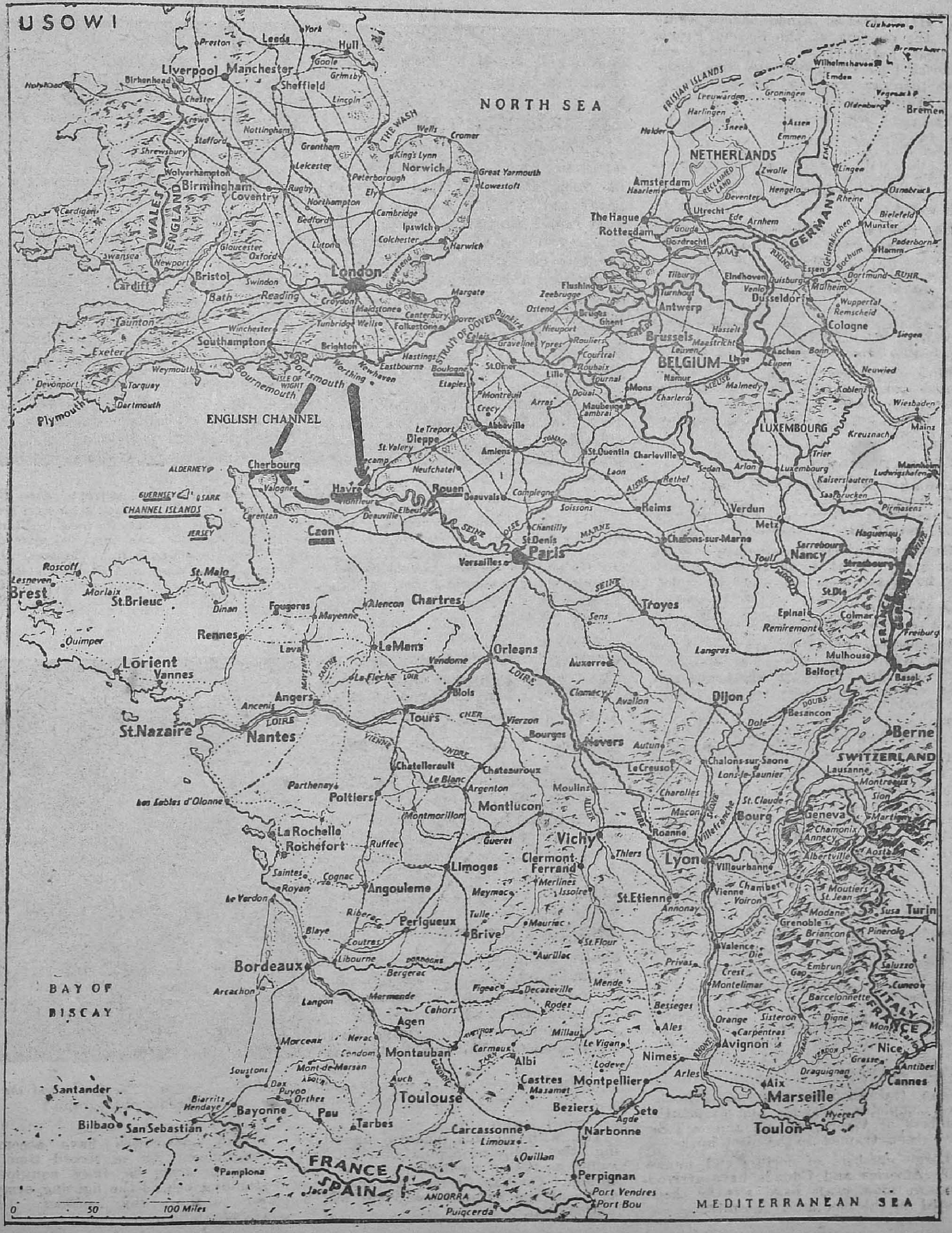
Thousands of documents of vital importance to the Nazis were destroyed when R.A.F. Mosquitoes sought out one particular house in the Hague in which those documents were reported to have been stored, and attacked it by day on May 3. This is probably the most brilliant feat of low-level precision bombing of the war. It is reported that only one bomb fell wide of the target, O.P.S. His Majesty the King speaking to Wing-Commander R.N. Bateson, D.S.O., D.F.C., who led the Hague attack during His Majesty's visit to an R.A.F. station where he inspected many new types of aircraft and the pilots who fly them. Behind the King *is Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., A.O.C., Second Tactical Air Force.*

Their Majesties and Princess Elizabeth with air-borne troops. The Queen and the Princess interested in a camouflaged sniper. (A radio photograph.)

Yet, with all this gigantic undertaking the civilian population will not suffer as far as medical service is concerned. Civilian doctors will carry on as usual and hospital treatment will be unimpaired.

The authorities have accomplished a magnificent job in record time. The medical army is fully equipped and standing behind the fighting army ready for "the day".—*News Chronicle (London).*

INVASION MAP OF EUROPE



"DYNAMO" RAMSAY PLANS LANDING ARMADA

By A. J. McWHINNIE

THE Army is a projectile fired by the Navy, runs an old definition of British sea power which was never more appropriate than it is to-day on the eve of the greatest amphibious operation of all time.

The man responsible for firing that giant projectile—the man responsible for carrying the Allied Army to Hitler's Europe—is the least known of all Commanders-in-Chief at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

His name is Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay. He knows more about planning seaborne invasions and organizing vast armadas than any man in history. Yet, as he strides to and from his secret headquarters in London swinging a Malacca came not one person in a thousand recognizes him.

NICKNAME FROM DUNKIRK

To Britain's Royal Navy he is known affectionately as "Dynamo Ramsay." There are two reasons. First, and the obvious one, is that he is a man of tireless energy. Then, when he organized little ships which brought back the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk the code word which started evacuation was "dynamo." And from that moment his room in Dover Castle only 21 miles from Hitler's occupied France became known as "dynamo room." Not unnaturally from that moment Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay became known as "Dynamo Ramsay."

It is difficult to realise when meeting him at his headquarters, where the finishing touches are being put to Allied plans for landing on German occupied Europe, that in 1938 this organizing genius was striding along country lanes on the borders of England and Scotland clad in the rough tweeds of a man in retirement. His sea life was apparently over. He had left the Navy and settled down at Coldstream, Berwickshire. But the drums of war were sounding—and drawing nearer. In 1939, Admiral Ramsay put away his rough brown tweeds and donned his uniform. When the war came he was at his post—at Dover. Important as his job was then, it became a hundred times more important when France collapsed. The Germans were only 21 miles away. The British Army was in retreat—bombed and blasted, weary and isolated and stuck at the water's edge on the beaches of France.

ORGANIZED LITTLE SHIPS

Round the coast of Britain the call went out for little ships. Anything that would float—old coasters, wealthy sportsmen's yachts, week-end sailing boats and little cabin cruisers. They came down the Channel manned by volunteer civilian crews—old age pensioners and schoolboys, stock-brokers and clerks, fishermen and lawyers. Men in little ships organized by Dynamo Ramsay went to save the British Army and brought them back alive.

From that moment, Triumph No. 1, Ramsay was marked out as a man destined to play a major part in the war events ahead. Heavy responsibilities were due to be placed on his shoulders. As a tribute to what he had already achieved, King George the Sixth knighted him.

Triumph No. 2 was the organizing of 850 ships for Anglo-American landings in North Africa. It took months of careful planning and organization. "Ramsay's ships" to North Africa even took cargoes of coal to feed the locomotives of French railways known to be short of fuel. Invasion chiefs have to think of everything!

After successful landings in North Africa I met Dynamo Ramsay. He gave me inside information about 40 experts who for months sat in secret at round table conferences working out every minute detail of the operation. But the Admiral made one stipulation at that time. He asked that his name should not be published.

PLANNING NO. "3"

Soon Ramsay, tight-lipped but twinkling-eyed, immaculately uniformed, short in stature but erect with four rows of medal ribbons on his chest, was to be seen again striding down London streets. He was to be seen mainly in the vicinity of Combined Operations Headquarters. That was where by this time he was working. And those who knew him would murmur, "There is something in the air."

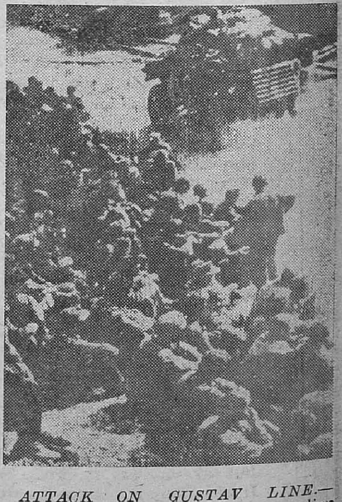
There was. He was planning ships for Triumph No. 3—invasion of Sicily.

But, for this operation four times as many ships were needed than had been needed for the Allied landings in North Africa. Then he used 850 ships. For the Allies to land in Sicily no fewer than 3,250 ships were needed. Ramsay organized them.

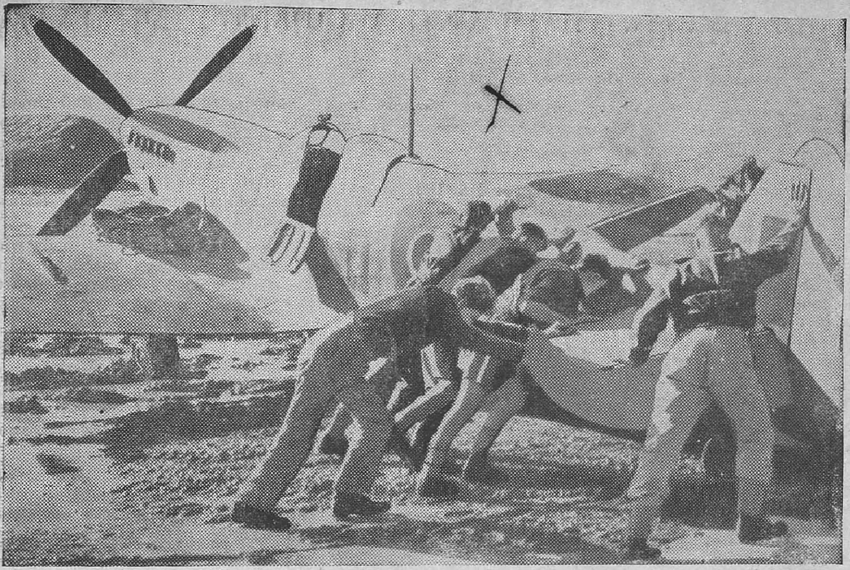
How the Allies captured Sicily without losing a single ship in the first phases of the operation is now a matter of history. Here was sea power demonstrated to the world.

For Triumph No. 3 Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay was awarded the K.B.E. He had played a major part in the planning and execution of the greatest seaborne expedition in history.

And now for a few months past he has been planning an even greater seaborne expedition—planning ships which will carry fighting men, their arms and supplies over to Hitler's Europe. His staff working in close co-operation with United States naval officers, are men who will fire the mightiest projectile of all time—the armies of liberation. These are the men who will arrange for the crusaders of the United Nations to be carried to the right landing places at the right time. These are the men who will keep Liberation armies well supplied with reinforcements and supplies.



ATTACK ON GUSTAV LINE.—German prisoners, consisting of grenadiers and paratroops, awaiting preliminary examination. (A radio photograph.)



ITALY: R.A.F. BATTLE AGAINST MUD AND RAIN.—Many hands make light work of a job of moving a spitfire on a waterlogged R.A.F. landing ground in Italy.

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO I

Third Instalment

"But what" Seshiah said "are we
To fight for? Something it must be,
And not for nothing shall we send
Our men to war and money spend.
And why if (as they would repeat)
Non-violence would all defeat
Who tried to keep this country down
And subject to a foreign crown,
Will not this same non-violence be
Protection now for you and me?"
"I never knew" the man replied
"If they believed all that they cried.
Perhaps they have sincerely spoken
And yet to brutal fact awoken.
When tigers rage and panthers spring
Non-violence is not the thing
To quell the menace of the beast
Or save your cow from being its feast.
From what I hear, the present foe
Is not impressed if people go
To jail with smile and happy shout,
Quite confident of being let out.
He doesn't mind if people yell --
But takes a whip and gives them hell
If what they yell is not the word
He wishes to be said and heard.
The English, in their simple way,
Allow their foes to have a say:
But Hitler, if you criticize,
Is not content to damn your eyes;
He's quite prepared to gouge them out
To teach you what to shoot about,
And shuts up critics bright and clever
Not some for months, but all for ever.
To Germans he may seem a god:
To others he will be a rod.
And where his armies go, there ends
The voice of freedom – and its friends.
The rack and thumbscrew come to stay:
Then happy those who only pay
Their money, half, or even all,
But save themselves a funeral ---
Our ruling party know this well
And know the raving brute from Hell
Will brush Non-violence aside
Without a blink: no deified
Great Soul or Prophet within range
Of Nazi Jackboot gets much change.
So of the two, Shoot or Be shot,
The first we choose, the second not."

DEALING WITH TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

A Press Note issued from Headquarters, Southern Army, indicates further steps taken by the military authorities to deal with traffic accidents.

The task of drivers of both civilian and military vehicles will be made much easier if pedestrains use footpaths where they exist and keep the sides of roads where there are no footpaths. So far as military personnel are concerned, a Southern Army Order just issued instructs all commanding officers to see that orders to this effect are carried out. Disciplinary action is to be taken against offenders, and military police have been instructed to enforce this order.

Other instructions recently issued deal with the parking of military vehicles. Military car parks are to be provided where possible in towns where none exist at present. Parking outside such car parks is to be cut down to a minimum and in any case must never obstruct other traffic.

The army authorities are anxious that civilians and the civil police shall be able effectively to assist in a real effort to eliminate unnecessary accidents. To this end, the following hints are given to facilitate the task of the police in tracing offenders:—

Prompt action in reporting incidents is of great assistance to the military police and while civilians should make an official report to the civil police, the army will act immediately on unofficial reports made to the military police. Incidents in Madras may be reported by telephoning the local military police at Madras 3426.

Civilians may experience some difficulty in noting vehicle numbers. The most important detail is to report the W.D. Number, e.g. (↑ 48248) painted in white on a black plate at front and rear. The other markings will also be a useful supplementary guide, while the type of vehicle—lorry, staff car, truck, jeep, etc.—may also be noted.

* * *

ARMY RAZOR BLADES RE-SHARPENED

At an average of 300 blades an hour 2,500 used razor blades are being re-sharpened daily by a Lahore firm. This is one of the latest economy measures which the Army in India has introduced; soldiers return their used blades when issued with fresh ones.

The machinery was imported from Germany before the war and subsequently bought by the firm. The workers engaged Punjabis, nearly all from Lahore.

Artillery boards for the army are also being made by this firm.

* * *

GURKHA PIPER PLAYED FOR WOUNDED SCOTS

Strains of the bagpipes greeted men of a famous Scottish Regiment, wounded at Kohima, when they arrived at a forward ambulance post. For a few minutes their pains were forgotten as they sat up on their stretchers and cheered the piper.

He turned out to be Havildar Gaj Bahadur Gurung, Ist. Gurkha Rifles, of Lamjung, Nepal. "I thought it would cheer them up", he said to an Indian Army Observer.

Bagpipes are played by many Indian regimental Gurkha pipers who soon become masters of the instrument. Havildar Gaj Bahadur Gurung has been playing the bagpipes for many years.

ANTI-MALARIA MEN BUSY ON BURMA BORDERS

Dressed in special uniforms and with cumbersome malarial knap-sack sprayers on their backs men of anti-malaria units on the Assam-Burma front are now waging a war of their own, writes an Indian Army Observer.

While our soldiers are hammering the Japs these men are fighting in a less spectacular way another enemy whose destruction is just as important—the mosquito. With the monsoon season fast approaching anti-malaria units are now working harder than at any other time of the year. Hundreds of Indian soldiers from Bihar, Orissa and many parts of Central India are running a race with time to prevent Minimus Anopheles, the insect Mata-Hari, from getting a hold over the fighting men.

Apart from distributing anti-malaria creams and oils and enforcing anti-malaria regulations the most vital and difficult job of these units is to go into thick jungle around military camps and locate and disperse stagnant pools of water which are common in the rain-drenched, tree-cover hill country on this front. The most effective check is exercised by digging contour drains which take away the water which keeps oozing out of the roots of trees and bushes. Besides the constant danger of leeches and snakes these men must be ready to face Jap snipers when working in forward outposts.

GURKHA GIRLS JOIN W.A.C.(I)

Following the example of their famous Gurkha brothers, Nepalese girls are joining the colours.

For the first time in their lives they have travelled by train and 'plane.

In their schools high up in the snow-topped Himalayas, teachers, students and ex-students followed closely the progress of the war, especially the fighting on India's eastern front.

When the enemy came over the border near Imphal they decided it was time for them to act.

So the Gurkha girls set out for the plains.

Never before had they been on a train, but they travelled along the twisting mountain roads to the nearest station. Teachers and students together boarded a train for Calcutta. There they went to see the Women's Auxiliary Corps' chief recruiting officer for Eastern Army.

A Nepalese unit was immediately formed. The officer commanding is one of their school teachers. So are some of their officers. They live in their own hostel, with a Nepalese Mess Sergeant to see that they get the food to which they are accustomed.

The girls will be a most valuable addition to the W.A.C.(I). A number of Nepalese signal sections are being formed. Already a contingent has flown half across India to receive training for urgent signal duties.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY EXAMINATION

A competitive examination for entry to the Royal Indian Navy will be held in Delhi on Monday, the 9th October 1944, and subsequent days. The examination will be conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission.

At this examination one vacancy will be offered for admission to the Executive Branch of the Royal Indian Navy.

Candidates for admission to the Royal Indian Navy examination must have been born not earlier than the 2nd May 1925 and not later than the 1st May 1927. These age-limits can in no case be relaxed.

A candidate who desires to appear at the examination is required to submit to the Federal Public Service Commission his application in the prescribed form with the necessary documents in accordance with the instructions given in the Instructions to candidates regarding the filling up and submission of applications. Applications must reach the authorities prescribed in the rules on or before the 3rd July 1944. *Copies of the rules and the application form, etc., may be obtained from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission Simla.*

The fact that an application form has been supplied, on a particular date will not be accepted as an excuse for the late submission of an application. Candidates who delay their requests for forms until a late date will do so at their own risk.

NOTE.—The approximate cost of training for the Royal Indian Navy is £260.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

31ST MAY.—A few German raiders were over East England and dropped bombs.

Allied bombers attacked Hamm, Osnabruck and Schwerte in Germany.

1ST JUNE.—The British Minister of Production, Mr. Oliver Lyttleton, speaking in London said, "I do not think that any army will ever go into battle so well-equipped as the army we shall one day launch upon the Continent."

2ND JUNE.—Allied aircraft attacked Leverkusen.

3RD JUNE.—Allied bombers attacked Ludwigshafen.

4TH JUNE.—Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister for Aircraft Production, made a statement on British production of Planes.

5TH JUNE.—Last night Allied planes bombed Cologne.

6TH JUNE.—*Allied Armies have landed on the North Coast of France.* Hitler has taken personal command of all anti-invasion operations. Mr. Churchill, Generals Eisonhower and Montgomery have issued statements on the opening of the Second Front. His Majesty the King has also issued an appeal.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

31ST MAY.—President Roosevelt at his press conference suggested that this war be called "The Tyrants' War."

General Shang Chen, head of the Chinese Military Mission, called on President Roosevelt.

The United States Secretary of the Navy, Mr. James Forrestal, made a statement on landing-craft building.

The annual Jap production of combat planes is estimated at about 13 per cent of the American output which is also estimated to be four times greater than Germany, says an official report. The United States has made more than 170,000 planes since Pearl Harbour. The total output in this year will be 100,000. The combined output of United States and the British Empire is given as 23.000 in 1940 and 42.500 in 1941, 75,000 in 1942 and 114,000 in 1943.

1ST JUNE.—Mr. Henry Stimson, United States Secretary of War, in a statement, surveyed the progress of war on all fronts.

Mr. Cordell Hull, the United States Secretary of State, conferred with M. Andre Gromyko, thes Soviet Ambassador, Dr. T. V. Soong, the Chinese delegate to the Monetary Conference, and with the representative of the French Committee of National Liberation. He also assured in a statement that small nations will be properly represented in the International Post-War Security Organization.

2ND JUNE.—It is revealed that Lend-Lease aid by the United States to the Allies now totals 24,225 million dollars.

5TH JUNE.—President Roosevelt had a long conference with Mr. John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister. Polish Prime Minister, M. Mikolajczyk arrived in Washington to exchange views with President Roosevelt.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, recently visited Lahore where he saw the War Services Exhibition and also inspected a battalion of the Frontier Force Regiment and the 8th Punjab Regiment Training Centre.

These boys of the 8th Punjab Regiment Boys Company are taught to be tough. Here they are seen by the Commander-in-Chief during his visit to the centre, undergoing assault course training.

ALLIES IN BURMA GET SUPPLIES FROM THE SKIES.—An American infantryman unwraps a parachute to unpack ammunition, dropped by an American transport plane to United States troops, fighting under Brigadier-General Frank Merrill against the Japanese in North Central Burma. Pressing hard against the enemy in a two-pronged drive, American and Chinese forces have driven the Japanese from a strategic valley in this area.

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

31ST MAY.—Chinese-American pressure on Myitkyina continued.

1ST JUNE.—Chinese-American forces have taken Malakawng. The Gurkhas took a village in Bishenpur area.

2ND JUNE.—About half of Myitkyina is in Allied hands.

3RD JUNE.—At Myitkyina, Chinese and American forces have made progress near the Railway station.

4TH JUNE.—Allied patrols were active near the Aradura Spur. In Bishenpur area the enemy has withdrawn from Gun Hill.

5TH JUNE.—Chinese forces captured Tumbonghka, 10 miles south-east of Kamaing. Severe fighting continues at Myitkyina.

6TH JUNE.—In Mogaung area the Chinese troops captured Tangaoyon. East of Kohima, enemy has withdrawn from several portions.

* * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

31ST MAY.—North of Jassy, Russian forces repelled German attacks. The Russians captured an important hill south-west of Vitebsk.

1ST JUNE.—German attacks in Jassy area continued.

2ND JUNE.—The Russians have beaten off more German attacks north of Jassy and at some points they counter-attacked successfully. Thirty-seven German aircraft were shot down.

American bombers landed on American air-bases in the Soviet Union after bombing Axis targets in Eastern Europe.

3RD JUNE.—North-west and north of Jassy Russian troops repelled Nazi attacks. In other sectors, there were no changes.

4TH JUNE.—Heavy land and air-battles raged around Jassy.

5TH JUNE.—Nazis used new weapons against the Russians in Tiraspol area.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

31ST MAY.—Eighth Army troops have reached the outskirts of Frosinone. The Allies have seized Foutana and Strangolagalli.

1ST JUNE.—The Allied forces have captured Frosinone, Sora, Ripi and Torrice.

2ND JUNE.—The two main strong points of the German defence line south of Rome—*Valmontone and Velletri* have been taken by the Fifth Army troops. Other places captured by the Allies include Ferentino, Voroli, Campoli, Lariono and Morolast.

Pope has made an appeal to spare Rome.

3RD JUNE.—The Fifth Army have broken through the Alban Hills Line. The Fifth and Eighth Armies have joined hands on Highway Six. The Fifth Army troops have captured Lanuvio and Labiio.

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean, has issued a statement in reply to Pope's appeal.

4TH JUNE.—The Allied troops have entered *Rome*. The Allies captured Colle Piso, Colle Ferro, Alatri, Fumone and Anagni.

5TH JUNE.—Rome has fallen. Allied troops passed through Rome and crossed the Tiber at several points. King Victor Emmanuel abdicated signing a decree transferring his powers to Prince Umberto. General Bencivenga assumed military and civil command of Rome on Allied authority. Half of Italy is in Allied hands.

6TH JUNE.—Eighth army troops occupied Tivoli. Fifth Army troops have advanced five miles beyond the Tiber.

* * *

STRATEGIC AIR FORCE SUPPLY CORPS.—Good work is being done by the Air Transport Corps of the Strategic Air Force, who supply battle areas by air.

A careful watch is kept on the arrival and departure of supply aircraft on the Burma Front by the Officer and the Airmen of the Watch. Left to right.—1342469 *A.C.L. Walker, 73, Menzies Drive, Stirling, Scotland and* 170110 *P/O R. Winder, 13, Howgill Avenue, Lancaster, Lancs.*

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

31ST MAY.—Bridges on the Seine river and Luzeol in France and military objectives in the area of Ploesti oilfields were attacked by the Allied aircraft.

1ST JUNE.—King Peter of Yugoslavia has now entrusted Doctor Ivan Subasic, former Governor of Croatia, with the formation of a new Government.

2ND JUNE.—Allies bombed Pas de Calais area.

3RD JUNE.—The air-assault on Pas de Calais area and other places in German-occupied territory continued unabated.

4TH JUNE.—Last night Allied bombers attacked military objectives on the French Coast.

The new Yugoslav Prime Minister, Dr. Ivan Subasic, will shortly hold a private conference with Marshal Tito.

6TH JUNE.—Invasion forces have landed in North France. General de Gaulle had arrived in Britain and had met Mr. Churchill and Eisenhower. Calais was heavily bombed.

* * *

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

31ST MAY.—Mr. Brenden Bracken, the British Minister of Information, made a statement on Britain's attitude towards Spain.

THE FAR EAST

31ST MAY.—Shimushiru, Matsuwa Paramushiru and Shimushu islands in the Kueriles were bombed by the Allied planes.

Mr. James Forrestal, United States Secretary of the Navy, said that American fleets would continue on their present offensive in the Pacific.

1ST JUNE.—American planes again bombed the Kuerile islands.

2ND JUNE.—The Americans are pouring reinforcements into Biak Island. Allied bombers attacked Guam, Truk, Wake, Ponape and Marshall islands.

The Jap advance on Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, has been slowed down. The Chinese captured Kaitou.

3RD JUNE.—It is revealed that Allies have landed in Bougainville in the Solomons.

4TH JUNE.—It is reported that American forces landed on Owi and Woendi on Friday, in the Schouten group.

The Chinese captured Ansiang, on the Tungting lake area.

5TH JUNE.—Allied advance in Biak in New Guinea continued.

To-day's United States Navy Department communiqué says that 16 Japanese ships have been sunk by United States submarines in the Pacific.

6TH JUNE.—The American troops continued their advance towards aerodromes on Biak.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE," MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.